



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES OF THE SOCIETY

ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM FOR A MEETING OF THE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY

At a meeting of the Directors of the American Oriental Society held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting last April, a resolution was unanimously passed looking toward the establishment of a Western Branch of the Society. It was voted that a committee be appointed to consider the advisability of forming such a branch and to report thereon to the Directors. The committee was constituted as follows: Professors BREASTED, of Chicago (chairman); OLMSTEAD, of Columbia, Mo.; MORGENSTERN, of Cincinnati; and CLAY, as Treasurer of the Society.

A meeting of the Chicago members interested in the undertaking was held at Chicago in August, Professors Olmstead and Montgomery also being present, and tentative plans were discussed. The Western Committee subsequently made arrangements for a meeting of the Western members at the University of Chicago on January 27, 1917, the program for which is subjoined in preliminary form.

It is hoped that all Western members of the Society will take an interest in this meeting. The movement should lead to the establishment by the Society of a Western Branch, and so contribute to the enlargement of the Society's membership and to its good fellowship. The proceedings of the meeting will be reported promptly in the JOURNAL.

PARTIAL PROGRAM

FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ORIENTALISTS OF THE WEST AT CHICAGO,
JANUARY TWENTY-SEVENTH, 1917

MORNING SESSION AT NINE O'CLOCK

Address of Welcome by Dean JAMES ROWLAND ANGELL.

Temporary Organization.

Papers:

Recent Archæological Discovery in China (illustrated),
by Dr. BERTHOLD LAUFER, Curator of Anthropology at
the Field Museum of Natural History.

Assyrian Government of Dependencies,
by Prof. A. T. OLMSTEAD, University of Missouri.

The Ship-building Papyrus from Elephantine,
by Prof. MARTIN SPRENGLING, University of Chicago.

The Travels of Evliya Effendi,
by Prof. ALBERT H. LYBYER, University of Illinois.

Other papers in course of arrangement.

Inspection of Haskell Museum collections conducted by
Director.

MIDDAY SESSION AT ONE O'CLOCK

Luncheon tendered the visiting Orientalists by the Uni-
versity of Chicago at the Quadrangle Club.

AFTERNOON SESSION AT HALF PAST TWO O'CLOCK

Business meeting to decide upon the advisability of
organizing a permanent Western Branch of the
American Oriental Society.

Papers:

The Byzantine Land System,
by Prof. J. E. WRENCH, University of Missouri.

The Elephantine Aramaic Papyri and Hebrew Religion,
by Prof. J. M. P. SMITH, University of Chicago.

If time permits there will be a visit to the Oriental collec-
tions of the Field Museum under guidance of Dr.
LAUFER.

EVENING SESSION AT SEVEN O'CLOCK

Dinner at the Quadrangle Club.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON¹

Christopher Johnston, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Oriental History and Archæology in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., died of heart disease, in his fifty-eighth year, on June 26, 1914. He was a member of the American Oriental Society since 1889, and a member of the Faculty of the Johns Hopkins University for nearly twenty-five years, having been appointed instructor in 1890. Although he was confined to his bed for the last four years and never free from pain, his mind remained clear and active, and he continued to take great interest in the University and his work. At the beginning of the second year of his illness he even tried to conduct an advanced class in Cuneiform Letters, a subject to which he had devoted his dissertation, *The Epistolary Literature of the Assyrians and Babylonians*, which was published in vols. 18 and 19 of our JOURNAL, and which is recognized at home and abroad as one of the most valuable contributions to this difficult field of research (*cf.* BA 4. 501. 25). He completed this work at Camp Wilmer where he was serving as First Lieutenant in the Fifth Regiment of the Maryland National Guard at the beginning of the Spanish-American War (May, 1898).

When the late Professor Winckler, of Berlin, inaugurated, in conjunction with Dr. Alfred Jeremias, of Leipzig, the *Vorderasiatische Bibliothek*, the editors invited Professor Johnston to contribute a volume of translations of selected Assyro-Babylonian letters. The late Professor R. F. Harper, of Chicago, submitted to Professor Johnston the manuscript of his translation of the Code of Hammurapi which appeared in 1904. Professor Johnston also prepared a revised American edition of Professor Sayce's *Ancient Empires of the East*, and contributed a *History of Israel* to this work. At the suggestion of President Gilman, who was Editor-in-Chief of the *New International Encyclopædia*, published by Dodd, Mead & Co. of New York, Professor Johnston completed all the Egyptological articles which had been prepared by the distinguished Egyptologist Professor W. M. Müller of Philadelphia.

Professor Johnston had quite a number of students in his

¹ Presented at the first session of the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society, New York, April 8, 1915.

Egyptian courses at the Johns Hopkins University including Professor Ember whose researches on the relations between Egyptian and Semitic bid fair to inaugurate a new era in comparative Egyptian philology (*cf.* OLZ 17. 424).² He was, however, chiefly interested in Assyriology, especially in cuneiform lexicography. A list of his papers on Assyrian and Egyptian history, archæology, and philology was given in No. 257 of the *Johns Hopkins University Circulars* (July, 1913). He continued to publish valuable Oriental papers almost to the time of his death. He was also an authority on genealogy and was often consulted in that capacity; in fact, he was the genealogical arbiter of the Colonial Dames of Maryland and Virginia.

He had a remarkable linguistic equipment for his work. He was not only acquainted with Egyptian and Assyrian, as well as the other Semitic languages, especially Arabic and Hebrew, but was also a good classical scholar, and could read French, German, Italian and Spanish. He was a graduate of the University of Virginia where he had studied Greek under Professor Gildersleeve.

In 1880 he received the degree of M.D. at the University of Maryland, and in 1911 this institution conferred on him the degree of LL.D. He was also a Corresponding Member of the *Société Archéologique* of France, and there is an exceptionally full biography of him in the German *Who's Who?* known as Degener's *Unsere Zeitgenossen*.

He had practised medicine for nearly ten years before he began the systematic study of Oriental Languages at the Johns Hopkins University, and this stood him in good stead when he interpreted the cuneiform reports of ancient Assyrian physicians (*cf.* JAOS 18. 161-163). His father was one of the leading surgeons of Baltimore.

Professor Johnston's work gave evidence of unusual general culture and was always characterized by uncommon sense. Yet he was a most modest and gentle man. He never asked anything for himself. Nor did I ever see him angry. I never heard him utter an unkind word. Nor did he complain during his long illness.

² It might be well to add in this connection that Lagarde remarked in his *Mitteilungen* 4. 373 (1891): *Ich kann mich von dem Glauben nicht losmachen, dass das älteste Ägyptische mit dem Semitischen näher zusammenhängt als jetzt angenommen wird.*

Whenever I think of him I am reminded of the passage in the Book of Numbers (12. 3) where a later writer says of Moses: *The man was very meek above all the men that were upon the face of the earth.* Gentleness and modesty were Professor Johnston's chief characteristics. But he was not only a gentle man and a gentleman, he was also a fine scholar of broad culture, sound judgment, original ideas, and exceptional linguistic attainments. We shall always hold him in grateful remembrance. Nor will his name be forgotten in future generations inasmuch as he requested Mrs. Johnston before his death to present his valuable library to the Oriental Seminary of the Johns Hopkins University.

PAUL HAUPT.

Johns Hopkins University.

MEETINGS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS

The annual meeting was held at Haverford College, Pa., on Dec. 27-28. There was a large attendance of members and 30 new members were elected. Dr. Jastrow gave the Presidential Address on 'Constructive Elements in the Critical Study of the Old Testament.' Several papers of general Oriental interest were presented, among them 'Alcohol in the Bible,' by Dr. Haupt; 'The Worship of Tammuz,' by Dr. Peters, holding that its origin was connected with the planting and so the burial of the seed; 'The Evolution of the Ashera,' by Dr. Barton, who maintained that the symbol was a development of the palm tree; 'Two Babylonian Religious Texts from the Time of the Dynasty of Agade,' by the same scholar, on texts in the University of Pennsylvania, regarded by him as the earliest extensive religious texts known from Babylonia; 'A Palestinian Mortuary Amulet on Silver Foil,' by Dr. Montgomery; 'Rhabdomancy and Belomancy in the Old Testament,' by Dr. Haupt, who held that the supposed references to these arts are not valid.